Extreme star formation in starburst galaxies

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Alheimsvíðáttan

Sá eg í ungum
æskublóma
stjörnur úr himin-
straumum rísa,
þúsund alda
aðþreyta skeið
heiðfagran gegnum
himinbláma.

(...)

Gránar í geimi,
geysa ég um himin
þokuþungaðan
þjótandi fram;
dunar mér á baki
dökknaðra sóla
flugniður allra,
sem fossa deyjandi.

The Vastness of the Universe

I watched the stars
in the womb of youth
rise from the still
streams of heaven,
eager to make
their million year
race through the thin
ethereal blue.

(...)

As I dart on
through dim greyness,
I encounter clouds
of cosmic dust.
Behind me I hear,
hushed in distance,
dark cataracts
of dying suns.

Jónas Hallgrímsson, Iceland, 1837